(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the reasons for the railways diversifying into field of production of non-railway components?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Halt stations under Samastipur division

†3551. PROF. RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of halt stations under the Samastipur division in North-Eastern Railway;

(b) who carries on operations of the halt stations;

(c) the number of halt-stations where private operators are to be appointed and the criteria for their appointment; and

(d) by when appointments against vacancies would be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) There are thrity eight halt stations under Samastipur Division *viz*,. Madan Misra, Jhanjharpur Bazar, Chandeshwarsthan, Barhara, Mithiladeep, Parsa Basuari, Shisho, Chandauna, Mohini Mandal, Kangali, Baraipura, Ugna, Lalit Lakshmipur, Korahia, Saharsa Katchehry, Kadampura, Baijnathpur Adndoli, Narayanpur Murli, Ram Bishanpur, Chhatapur Road, Deviganj, Chakardaha, Alinagar Tola, Rupauli, Deenapatti, Sukhasan Kothi, Shaheed Suraj Narain Singh, Awasani, Pipraha, Nariyar, Harpr Nagar, Kuria, Bangari, Masnadih, Parsa Nagar, Prajapati, Rameshwar Nagar and Musharwa.

(b) Generally, Halt contractors are appointed for selling of tickets at the halt stations.

(c) and (d) As per the extant policy, the appointment of half contractors is done for a period of three years after calling for applications through advertisements. Thereafter, the Selection Committee recommends the suitable candidate on the basis of merit and suitability for appointment.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The selection of halt stations is under process and will be finalised shortly.

Procurement of Bogie Container Wagons

3552. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether procurement of 600 bogie container flat wagons by M/s. Container Corporation of India has been finalised;

(b) if so, whether order has been placed on Burn Standard Company, A CPSU, which had quoted the lowest offer; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Public Sector Unit under the Ministry of Railways, had recommended the award of the contract of favour of M/s. Burn Standard Compnay Limited (BSCL) a public sector company. However, the World Bank, who have financed the project, did not favour awarding the contract to the compnay on the ground that BSCL's financial position was not wound and it had a poor track record in making deliveries in time. in furtherance of the Govt. Policy to support Public Sector Units, Ministry of Railways requested the World Bank to reconsider its decision. However, the World Bank did not agree to this suggestion. The tender was thus cancelled.

Expansion of Narkhed-Amravati Rail Line

†3553. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of expension work of Narkhed-Amravati rail line including the year-wise amount spent thereon;

(b) whether Government have formulated any time bound programme for completion of the work of this rail line;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.